



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Telephone (775) 684-4000 • Fax (775) 684-4010
<http://dhhs.nv.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2015

CONTACT: Nathan Orme, Public Information Officer
(775) 684-3471; norme@dhhs.nv.gov

OCTOBER 2015 IS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Events throughout the state will support people with disabilities

Carson City, NV — October is Disability Awareness Month, and advocates are encouraging Nevadans to take time to learn about challenges faced by and contributions made by the state's roughly 375,000 individuals with disabilities.

"The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities enjoys ramping up its collaboration with people and groups around the state every October in providing support and recognition that enhance the lives of people with disabilities," said Sherry Manning, executive director of the council. "For us, it's a year-round effort but the annual Disabilities Awareness Month really drives home our mission."

Several events in southern Nevada will highlight tales, transitions and talents surrounding the diverse population of people with disabilities.

On Oct. 16 and 17, the Nevada Transition Conference at Texas Station in North Las Vegas will feature local and national presenters hosting sessions on aligning accommodations and supports; building knowledge; engagement and empowering families; employment; models for success; post-secondary education and training; and transition and career assessment. The featured keynote speakers are the mother-daughter duo of Cinda and Linea Johnson, who co-wrote the book, "Perfect Chaos, A Daughter's Struggle to Survive Bipolar and a Mother's Journey to Save Her," about Linea's struggle through the diagnosis, treatment and acceptance of bipolar disorder and Cinda and her family's pain, love and pride for their daughter in this fierce fight. The conference also will feature artwork submitted by students age 14 to 22 with disabilities. For information about the conference, visit www.nevadateach.weebly.com or call Mark Hinson at the Department of Education at 702-668-4309.

Also on Oct. 17, the 23rd Annual Disability Awareness Day will be held at the East Las Vegas Community Center. This event, co-sponsored by the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL), the city of Las Vegas Adaptive Recreation Program, Nevada

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and numerous businesses, gives attendees the opportunity to meet and learn from more than 60 disability service providers about independent living, recreational activities, employment and more. Attendees also will get to meet elected officials and receive complimentary a wheelchair wash and minor tune-up. Lunch will be provided courtesy of AAMCO Medical. For more information, visit <http://www.sncil.org/disability-awareness/> or call 702-889-4216.

On Nov. 10, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will host its annual ThinkAbility Fair. This event brings together state, local and campus resources for students or persons with disabilities. UNLV faculty members are encouraged to participate by including the event in their syllabi and giving extra credit for participation. Also, UNLV will be recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at this event. Dr. Carl Reiber, UNLV's vice provost for academic affairs and professor of biology, will be the guest speaker to open the celebration. Finally, the event showcases faculty and staff who have been nominated by students as having made significant differences in the lives of UNLV students with disabilities. This free event takes place in the Valerie Pida Plaza right outside the student union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.unlv.edu or call Raquel O'Neill at 702-895-0866.

"The activities of Disability Awareness Month go a long way toward lifting the mindset of the general public regarding individuals with disabilities, but increasing awareness of the skills, talents and abilities of persons with disabilities is not just a one-month deal," said Kari Horn, projects manager for the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, "It needs to be celebrated and practiced every day, every hour – in everything we do."

###

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Helping People – It's Who We Are and What We Do